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Area Bulletin 2010-2019

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LWV Bulletin, December, 2013

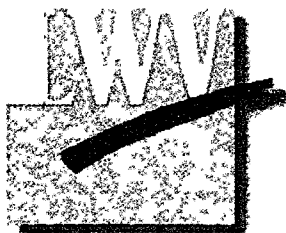
League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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Nov. 2013



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LWVWV website: [www: LWVWV.ORG](http://www.LWVWV.ORG)
LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG
December 2013 Bulletin - Patricia Keller, Editor

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$45 individual, \$60 for two in one household and \$24 for students. To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

MEETING ON FRACKING/HORIZONTAL DRILLING

On November 25, 7 pm the League of Women Voters will host a meeting at the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. Joe Altizer, lawyer for the WV House of Delegates, will be the speaker. He will cover the law on Fracking/Horizontal Drilling that was passed by the WV legislature and signed by the governor in the 2011.

Many West Virginians support improvements in the law. SORO's (Surface Owners Rights Organization) purpose is to protect surface owners' rights from oil and gas drilling. The website tells what recourses surface owners already have. It also makes a case for the need for WV to pass a law that establishes well spacing and royalty sharing legislation for all wells in West Virginia and strengthens the protection of groundwater sources from drilling. See <http://www.wvsoro.org>.

Some other groups voice support for better controls and monitoring of fugitive gases, especially methane, and better controls on the disposal of wastes from drilling, including using "closed loop" drilling. Many have expressed concerns on the proposal to barge Fracking wastes on the Ohio River. Because of the boom in drilling for natural gas, proposals have been made in support of the establishment of a Future Fund from a portion of the severance taxes from gas. The Fund would establish a permanent source of income for the state.

Although Mr. Altizer neither supports nor opposes suggestions on how to improve the law, he will be able to answer questions from the audience about different proposals.

The League of Women Voters of WV supported the 2011 law, but will support further protective improvements.

THE WV BLUEBOOK is now available on the WV website. It provides information on the local, state, and federal branches of government, agencies, officials, and personnel.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judy Birt, Cassie Burdyslaw, Gaillynn Bowman, Casey Waldeck, and rejoining member, Terri Waldeck.

FINANCE DRIVE

Instead of sponsoring fund raising events the League solicits funds from the community and its members. If you would like to send a donation to the LWV, send it to Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701. If you wish the donation to be tax deductible, please make it out to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Thank you, Monika Rowe, for sending out the finance letters.

CHILDREN AND POVERTY, FOLLOW UP

On November 10 the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church hosted a community meeting conducted by Rick Wilson from "Our Children, Our Future: The Campaign to End Child Poverty." The partners in the organization represent many facets of society — businesses and law, faith based, agencies, legislators, philanthropy, labor, statewide organizations, etc. Information about the organization and its goals may be accessed at <http://www.wvhealthykids.org/>. One of its goals is to formulate policy proposals. Those who would like to vote on 2014 legislative proposals may contact Stephen Smith, ssmith@wvhealthykids.org. Send your information, proposals, and votes to him by December 1.

At the end of the meeting there was support from Huntington area attendees to bring interested people together again to pursue how the community can improve the future for our children.

ELECTION CALENDAR AND INFORMATION, SPRING 2014

January 13-January 25. Filing for office

April 22 – Voter Registration deadline for Primary election

May 13 – Primary Election

Candidates for the US Congress, state Senate, state House of Delegates and an office that represents more than one county file with the Secretary of State.

Those who file for offices entirely within the county file with the county clerk.

Offices to be on the ballot include US Senate and House of Representatives, WV Senate and House of Delegates, County Commission, Board of Education, and political party committees.

A new law allows voter registration on the Secretary of State's website.

DIRECTORY OF W.VA. PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL

The Huntington League maintains a list of public officials on the Herald-Dispatch's website. To access the list google Herald-Dispatch Directory of WV Public Officials and Personnel.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE

Dues for the 2013-14 fiscal year may be paid to our treasurer, Ann Speer. Mail the check to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701.

The Huntington League continues to welcome new members at half-price membership dues – one member, \$23; two members in a household, \$30; full time student, \$13.

Invite your friends to a meeting or sign them up to receive our bulletin by email.

US BUDGET PROPOSALS

The LWVUS joined with 93 other organizations in a letter to Congress urging them to keep the following principles in mind as they work on the end of year budget agreement. The letter emphasizes the following:

END SEQUESTRATION The letter points out that the greatest challenge facing our economy today is the continuing jobs crisis, not the deficit. Over 20 million people are in need of full-time work. The annual deficit has been cut by more than half since 2009 as a portion

of the economy, and is now falling faster than at any time since the end of World War II. According to the Congressional Budget Office, simply repealing sequestration would generate 900,000 jobs over the next year. The sequester cuts have also deprived children of needed educational opportunities, prevented low-income seniors from receiving meals, and hindered scientific and medical research.

If Congress chooses to replace sequestration cuts, it must not do so in ways that harm workers, low-income people, or others most at risk in this economy. Congress can avoid all of these pitfalls by enacting specific tax provisions that ask the wealthiest Americans and profitable Wall Street corporations to contribute their fair share in taxes. To date, 70 percent of policy or deficit savings have come from cuts, with just 30 percent from revenues; this rises to a 79-21 split if the sequester remains in place.

DEFEND CORE PROGRAMS FOR THOSE MOST AT RISK

Congress should defend the core security programs for those most at risk in this economy, such as impoverished women and children, the elderly, or the long-term unemployed. The savage cuts proposed for food stamps (SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) are unconscionable. Any budget agreement must protect essential programs such as housing, home heating, Head Start, infant nutrition, education, and other programs vital to low-income families.

ELIMINATE ALL TAX INCENTIVES FOR SENDING JOBS OVERSEAS AND INSTEAD CREATE JOBS AT HOME

Corporations and the rich should pay their fair share of taxes. As a start, we call on Congress to eliminate all tax incentives that encourage companies to ship jobs abroad. Ending these tax subsidies would – by itself – increase investment and employment in the U.S. At the same time, it would generate hundreds of billions in revenue which could help rebuild our economy without increasing the deficit.

This money could be used to launch a five-year plan to rebuild our outmoded infrastructure; to help ensure that the U.S. captures the lead in a green industrial revolution that is already generating growing numbers of good jobs; and to invest in education, from pre-K to affordable college to prepare our children to succeed in the 21st century. Prioritizing job creation, including proposals like the American Jobs Act, is urgently needed.

PROTECT MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SOCIAL SECURITY FROM BENEFIT CUTS

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